

Arlington Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
June 18, 2015

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room, of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, David White, Janine White, Mike Nonni, Susan Chapnick, and Curt Connors. Eileen Coleman, Associate Member and Catherine Garnett, Associate Member of the Commission were not present. Also present were Becky and John Edmondson, Jane Howard, Ellen Reed and Jennifer Ryan.

7:30pm – Commission Business:

DWhite/CConnors motioned to approve the 5/21 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

CConnors/DWhite motioned to approve the 6/4 **minutes** with edits, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stevens reminded the Commission of the forthcoming MassHousing site walk to the **Mugar** property, meeting at Thorndike parking lot.

7:45 pm **Notice of Intent** – Hills Pond aquatic weeds

Ms. Reed, representing the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park and the Town of Arlington's Park and Recreation Department, presented the request for a continued program by Aquatic Control Technology to control curly pond weed and algae in Hills Pond. In the last few years, they have used less quantity of chemicals and fewer number of treatments. They expect that trend to continue.

The chemicals proposed are diquat and copper. No Sonar treatments will be made.

John Edmundson, a neighbor to the park and an abutter to the pond questioned how would aeration help. The aerator should improve conditions and lessen the need for chemicals. The aerator needs to be plugged in but DPW cannot find the electric lines at the park to repair this situation. The Commission proposed adding a condition in the permit to ask DPW to fix electricity within a year of the issuance of this permit so that aeration can be used to reduce algae blooms and potentially reduce the amount of chemical treatment needed.

DWhite/SChapnick motioned to close the hearing. Motion passed unanimously. The draft permit will be reviewed at the 7/9 meeting.

8:00pm **Notice of Intent** – Elizabeth Island paths

Mr. Stevens recused himself from the proceeding because he is on the board of the

Arlington Land Trust, and Mr. White served as chair.

Ms. Ryan, of the Arlington Land Trust, presented the proposed project to install new water bars (erosion-control bars or steps) on the existing paths in two locations. One location is on the hillside facing the Boys and Girls Club. They will accomplish this half of the project the first year. They may be working with Mass Audubon and/or the Boys Scouts with Ted Siegan and Stroker Rogevin performing the construction supervision and monitoring. They will install six (6) to eight (8) water bars with gravel behind. This will protect them if they are stepped upon.

The timing of the work will be fall, winter, or spring so as not to disturb Umbrella-Sedge habitat. Permit conditions will include Natural Heritage approval required prior to work.

The second year they will work on the other side of the Island, on the other sloped section of path.

The work will be conditioned as follows:

- 1) NHESP recommendations will be followed.
- 2) A maintenance plan will consist of inspections of the completed work twice a year.
- 3) Supervision of the work must be performed by experienced personnel.

Ms. Ryan expects the work will take approximately two weekends to complete.

J.White/CConnors motioned to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stevens came back into the meeting.

Commission Business (cont.):

The Commission representative to the **Community Preservation (Act) Committee** was discussed. Mr. Tirone was interested in serving as the Commission's representative on the Committee. He will write a statement stating his qualifications and interest. All other members of the commission were asked to consider whether or not they are interested between now and the next meeting on 7/9. The Commission will proceed with their selection at that meeting.

Ms. Beckwith presented the **15 Thesda St** COC request permit 91-253. Connors/Nonni motioned to approve the COC. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beckwith presented the draft **44 Hopkins St** – sign and review Order of conditions for permit 91-259. Chapnick/DWhite motioned to approve the Order of Conditions with edits; motion passed unanimously.

**Volunteer project guidelines** were discussed and they need to be reviewed again and discussed at the next meeting.

The Commission reviewed the **16 Spy Pond** enforcement site walk. The homeowner will request an amendment to the existing permit to include the new structures and provide a new planting plan to the commission. When this amendment is received and reviewed, and the amended permit issued, then the Certificate of Compliance (COC) application can be applied for.

Mr. White reported that the apartments at **Viking Court** appear to have had a lot of water damage. The Commission has not confirmed the receipt of the Enforcement Order sent by regular mail for snow dumping into Noname Brook last winter. This enforcement matter has been referred to Town Counsel.

Mr. White presented the **Across Lexington** (the Rick Abrams Memorial Trail Network) brochure to the Commission. He is drafting a letter to the Arlington Board of Selectmen thanking it for participating in the project. Ms. Chapnick commented that she has used the phone app and it worked well.

Mr. Tirone recommended that the Commission remind Town Manager to reach out to Lexington to help with the Reservoir invasive weed control. Mr. White reported that there has been vista pruning at the **Reservoir** by Lexington abutters.

Ms. Beckwith reported on a site walk on 6/18 at 1:30 pm at **17 Mill Street**. They are proposing to take out two trees, repair a stone wall and remove Japanese Knotweed. The Commission recommended filing a Notice of Intent for the work.

Mr. Tirone reported on his site walk at the MassDOT project at the **Rt 2 and 16** intersection. This was a review of the email information sent by Mr. Tirone two weeks previously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Commission Administrator